

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MAY 29, 2007

The Hall County Board of Supervisors met May 29, 2007, by published call in the county board meeting room, 121 South Pine, Grand Island.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Arnold.

INVOCATION - Invocation was given by Rev. Gene Arnold

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

ROLL CALL - Present on roll call were, Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Bob Humiston, Bud Jeffries, Pamela Lancaster, Robert Rye and Daniel Wagoner. Also present was a representative from the Grand Island Independent and County Attorney Mark Young and Deputy County Attorney Michelle Oldham.

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW – Chairman Arnold read the notice of the open meeting law.

Consent Agenda – Lancaster made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the following by consent agenda:

1. Placed on file the minutes of the May 15 meeting
2. 7 Reappointed Karen Reese to the Hall County Housing Authority Board for a 5 year term.
3. 8 Approved the special designated liquor license for Mid Nebraska Speedway
4. 16 Approved the biweekly pay claims and authorized the County Clerk to pay
5. 23 placed on file the office report from the Register of Deeds
6. 24 Placed on file the Hall County Treasurer's Miscellaneous Receipts
7. 25 Placed on file communications as received

Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster, Rye and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

OFFICE REPORT REGISTER OF DEEDS APRIL 2007

DOCUMENTARY STAMPS	\$ 5,888.91
RECORDING FEES	\$17,327.50
PHOTO COPIES	\$ 419.60

COUNTY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT OF CRIMINAL CASE CONCERNING DAVE ARNOLD – County Attorney Mark Young was present. He stated that there has been a settlement reach. Mr. Arnold will be pleading no contest and there is an agreement to pay restitution. Mr. Young stated that it is not necessary to approve the restitution amount because that was set by the court. This case should be finished next week depending on the judge's schedule.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Chairman Arnold called for public participation and no one responded.

Chairman Arnold noted that because of a recent court ruling the County Clerk has advertised the board of equalization meeting separately. The board of equalization is a separate body. The process that was used in the past was ok but the board of equalization will be handled the same way as the board of corrections meetings.

6 DISCUSSION REGARDING ATM MACHINES IN COUNTY FACILITIES – Mr. Wagoner requested to postpone this item because the interested party was unable to attend.

15 REGIONAL PLANNING Lancaster made a motion and Humiston seconded to place the communications from regional planning on file. Chairman Arnold requested that the wording from the regional planning agenda regarding the open meeting law be on the county board agenda.

9 AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF INDIRECT COSTS FOR NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HHS – This was approved by the county board in October of 2006 but there is a new form that requires the County Board Chair to sign.

Lancaster made a motion and Jeffries seconded to authorize the chair to sign the request for reimbursement for the indirect cost. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster, Rye and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

9:15 A.M. HELD A BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING - Lancaster made a motion and Rye seconded to go into a board of equalization meeting. Arnold, Erikson, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster, Rye and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

10 COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON BUILDING AND GROUNDS REQUEST REGARDING FUNDS IN EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENT RESERVE FUND – The department has funds that have been in the reserve fund for 5 years and they have discussed purchasing another snow plow. The corrections steering committee has also discussed the need for a snow plow at the new facility and it was suggested that the old plow could be used there if another plow is purchased. They do not want to return the money to the general fund because of these needs. The City does not have the necessary equipment to clear the snow at their new facility so there are some other options that need to be considered.

Lancaster stated that they would like to reallocate the dollars in the reserve fund for the purchase of a pickup and a snow plow. Jeffries stated that they need to look at the options and would also like to reserve the funds.

Lancaster noted that the vehicles at the park are used to move snow at the other county buildings.

Lancaster made a motion and Jeffries seconded to return the \$27,000.00 to the general fund and then reallocate it in the equipment reserve fund for the purchase of a pickup and a snow plow.

Wagoner requested if there was another vehicle in the County that could be used for the snow removal or if the county could look at contracting the snow removal out.

The vote on the motion to move the funds was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster, Rye and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

11 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MAXIMUM LIMITS TO THE 125 PLAN – Eriksen stated that the flex plan has 96 participants with a total of \$141,000.00 tax deferred dollars. This results in a tax saving for the county FICA match. He would like to see the maximum on the unreimbursed medical raised to \$3,500.00. The child care and insurance premium amount cannot be raised. Wagoner stated that he had a couple employees request to have that dollar amount increased.

Wagoner made a motion and Eriksen seconded to increase the unreimbursed medical expense to \$3500.00.

Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster, Rye and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

12 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LEGISLATIVE BILLS – Board Assistant Stacey Ruzicka stated that May 31 is the last day of this session. LB 208 regarding material bonds has been signed by the Governor. LB 377 has been passed by the Legislature but not signed by the Governor. LB 377 would increase the number of District Court Judges. This could go into effect as early as October of this year; of course the judge would have to be appointed. The county does not pay the judges salary but they are responsible for a bailiff and for providing a court room. Deputy County Attorney Michelle Oldham stated that there is a judicial resources committee that addresses where the judge's primary location will be. The county needs to be aware that this is coming.

Lancaster expressed concern that there will be a need for another court room and it would take 3 or 4 months to get this in place. She would like to see the facilities committee discuss a contract with DLR to address the design and the options for an additional courtroom. There is a small courtroom across from the current corrections department and when corrections moves there would be some space available there even if it was temporary.

Lancaster made a motion and Jeffries seconded to have the building and grounds committee meet with DLR to establish the parameters and discuss a contract to design a courtroom.

Eriksen agrees to the planning but objects to working with DLR at this time. We need to know how and to what extent to proceed before working with DLR.

Jeffries also agrees that it may be premature but it is necessary to determine the cost and how the county can proceed. If this takes affect July 1st it will still take time for the appointment and once a judge is appointed it may be some time before he would take the bench.

Lancaster stated that Judge Livingston would like to see a working Judge by October. DLR did the preliminary design on the jail and the space needs assessment on the court house and she would like to make some decision and get the project started.

Arnold stated that the county needs information and needs some of the question answered before the plans are made. At this time it is not known where the judge will be housed. He would like to identify the space for a court room.

Jeffries stated that he would like to see this under a committee to get the process started.

Eriksen questioned to what extent that DLR would be involved and he would like to see the committee gather the information but feels it is to premature to have DLR involved.

Rye also stated that he thinks is too premature to bring in DLR.

Lancaster stated that the committee can gather the information and determine when they need to work with DLR. The county also needs to know if DLR is interested in the project.

Jeffries stated that it will take at least 30 days to know what is going on. October is not very far away.

The vote on the motion to have the facilities committee work with DLR to establish the parameters and discuss a contract to design a courtroom was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and Wagoner voted no. Motion carried.

Arnold stated that he received a letter from Senator Dubas regarding the reimbursement from the state for counties the governor has line item veto and could be no money available and rather than that at least there would be some funding. and legislature override other counties are also feeling the issue reimbursement to counties was cut receiving the prisoner reimbursements are a huge issue

Wagoner should the county stop paying the state if so the state stops taking them

Michelle if some one is arrested for a felony and they sit for 6 months then they are sentenced to the state facility the county's reimbursed for that time

Lancaster the law states that the county should be reimbursed we have concerns on budget issues and the state takes the dollars away

Jeffries stated that the state cuts the funding and shifts the burden to the counties so the counties cannot be reimbursed the total amount owed.

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS – Eriksen reported that the Army Corp of Engineers has cleaned up load lines 1, 2, and 3 but they found additional dumpsites and those have also been cleaned up, so this land will be ready to transfer. The land that was designated to Central Platte NRD will also be cleaned up and within the year the land should be transferred. He also attended the Memorial Day Service.

Discussion was held that the new safety center will be ready in September and moving the offices will impact the budget.

NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Chairman Arnold called for new or unfinished business and no one responded.

He informed the board that the Museum Director will not be available for the scheduled budget meeting but the Museum Board President will present the information.

He also recognized the fact that Hall County has a student that is attending the national spelling bee in Washington DC. He would like to have the County Board recognize her.

Lancaster suggested that the board set a policy how to address recognitions and also condolences for people. She also informed that board that the new county flags are available.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. the next meeting will be Tuesday June 12, at 9:00 a.m.

Marla J. Conley Hall County Clerk